

**Developmental Disabilities Council
Health and Education
DRAFT MINUTES
7/15/04**

Present: Lori Flood, Lou Colwell, Diana McMaster, Tracie Day, Angie Brothers, Alphonso Lee and Patty McDonald.

Absent: Julie Williamson-Purdy and Sherrie Brown.

Staff: Brian Dahl and Eva Rooks

Call to order/agenda/approval of minutes

Julie Williamson-Purdy was unable to attend the meeting, so Diana McMaster chaired the meeting in her absence. The minutes were reviewed, a correction was made and the minutes were approved as amended.

Revision of July Meeting Agenda

Eva asked that the agenda be revised so that Julie Williamson-Purdy could participate in the

discussion around HE2, which was a major item of the meeting's agenda. Eva provided a copy of proposed meeting minutes, which reduced the time allocated to discussion of HE2 and included a brief coverage of the Special Education Institute that Eva attended. The revised agenda was accepted by vote.

Reading: 04-H-06 -HE2 Background Report

Eva reviewed in more detail about the background of HE2 and how the misunderstanding regarding its' history may have occurred. The workgroup spent some time discussing some to the issues of access, including use of the 911 to access healthcare. The discussion brought up some ideas for future research on this topic:

Patty McDonald notes that with upcoming changes to the system and workforce, the workgroup may want to solicit information from SEIU specifically in regard to the provider registry that is being developed. The group asked that someone should come from the

union to speak to the group around the issue of access.

The group also asked that Andrea Abrahamson be asked to attend one of our meetings and talk about access issues and benefits in terms of social security, Medicare and Medicaid.

It was also discussed that perhaps the council as a whole would benefit from training on medical access and benefits, issues, etc.

Special Education Institute Report

Eva attended the Special Education Institute and shared some information about how schools are getting ready to implement the changes that have come as a result of SB 1275.

Agency Reports

Agency representatives gave brief reports. Diana shared that there will be no premium for children's health care.

State Disability Conference Report

Angie reported on the recent conference. Two high priority items identified are universal health care and the creation of an ombudsman specifically to address disability issues.

SEAC Update

Lenora Shaw came in to present a review of the activities. She reported that SEAC is undergoing a change of composition and will be disbanded until it emerges it has completed it's restructuring process. Lenora reported that she has re-applied to participate in the new group, but as a member-at-large, and not as a council member.

HE2-Health Commissioner's Office Report

Michael Arnis from the Commissioner's office came to present information on what the Commissioner's office is doing to increase access to health care, especially access to health care for people for disabilities. He brought along some information about some resources that are available, including:

- The Health Insurance Commissioner's website.
- SHIBA- which is a group of volunteers that helps individuals get insurance
- Washington Basic Health Plan

Michael also spoke of the Insurance Commissioner's plan to increase the size of the risk pool in order to increase the number of people who are able to get insurance and to decrease the cost for insurance. This proposal is based on the same proposal Presidential candidate John Kerry has proposed at a national level. This price will not increase costs, but will increase the number of people who are served.

Access was again discussed with the group. Doctors are increasingly not accepting Medicaid patients. Michael stated the Insurance Commissioner's cannot do anything about this except to work to stabilize the medical insurance market.

Council Report

The workgroup chair will report to the full council.

Next month's agenda

Further discussion on HE2

Speakers, if available, from Spokane area to discuss HE2 topics.

Meeting was adjourned